

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20 (cancelled).

21. (new) A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital object from a vendor;

testing the digital object for the presence of an authorization code;

associating a warning status with the digital object on detecting the presence of an authorization code in the digital object;

checking a database of vendor details maintained in computer memory, the database having an entry representing the vendor, the entry including the number of digital objects having an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor and an alert status associated with the vendor;

associating an alert status with the digital object on detecting an entry in the database of vendor details representing an alert status associated with the vendor;

adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object;

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the warning and/or alert status associated with the digital object; and

updating the alert status associated with the vendor based at least partly on the number of digital objects having an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor.

22. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 21 where the entry representing the vendor includes the number of digital objects without an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor, the method further comprising the step of updating the alert status associated with the vendor if the number

of digital objects having an associated warning status exceeds the number of digital objects without an associated warning status.

23. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a vendor identifier representing the vendor from which the digital object is received; and

adding the vendor identifier to the digital object.

24. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 23 further comprising the steps of:

extracting the vendor identifier from the digital object;

comparing the extracted vendor identifier with the vendor identifier received from the vendor; and

checking the digital object for an associated warning status.

25. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 24 further comprising the step of removing the warning status if the extracted vendor identifier matches the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

26. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 24 further comprising the step of associating a warning status with the digital object if the extracted vendor identifier does not match the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

27. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

checking the database of vendor details maintained in computer memory; and

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with an alert status if the number of warning status indicators associated with the vendor exceeds a predefined threshold.

28. (new) A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital object from a vendor;

testing the digital object for the presence of an authorization code;

associating a warning status with the digital object on detecting the presence of an authorization code in the digital object;

checking a database of vendor details maintained in computer memory, the database having an entry representing the vendor, the entry including the number of digital objects having an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor and an alert status associated with the vendor;

adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object;

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the warning status associated with the digital object; and

updating the alert status associated with the vendor based at least partly on the number of digital objects having an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor.

29. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 28 where the entry representing the vendor includes the number of digital objects without an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor, the method further comprising the step of updating the alert status associated with the vendor if the number of digital objects having an associated warning status exceeds the number of digital objects without an associated warning status.

30. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a vendor identifier representing the vendor from which the digital object is received; and

adding the vendor identifier to the digital object.

31. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 30 further comprising the steps of:

extracting the vendor identifier from the digital object;

comparing the extracted vendor identifier with the vendor identifier received from the vendor; and

checking the digital object for an associated warning status.

32. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 31 further comprising the step of removing the warning status if the extracted vendor identifier matches the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

33. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 31 further comprising the step of associating a warning status with the digital object if the extracted vendor identifier does not match the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

34. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 28 further comprising the steps of:

associating an alert status with the digital object on detecting an entry in the database of vendor details representing an alert status associated with the vendor; and

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the alert status associated with the digital object.

35. (new) A method of transacting a digital object in which a vendor offers for sale or trade the digital object to a purchaser, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a digital object from a vendor;

checking a database of vendor details maintained in computer memory, the database having an entry representing the vendor, the entry including the number of digital objects having an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor and an alert status associated with the vendor;

associating an alert status with the digital object on detecting an entry in the database of vendor details representing an alert status associated with the vendor;

adding one or more authorization codes to the digital object;

updating the entry in the database of vendor details representing the vendor with the alert status associated with the digital object; and

updating the alert status associated with the vendor based at least partly on the number of digital objects having an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor.

36. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 35 where the entry representing the vendor includes the number of digital objects without an associated warning status previously submitted by the vendor, the method further comprising the step of updating the alert status associated with the vendor if the number of digital objects having an associated warning status exceeds the number of digital objects without an associated warning status.

37. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 35 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a vendor identifier representing the vendor from which the digital object is received; and

adding the vendor identifier to the digital object.

38. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 37 further comprising the steps of:

extracting the vendor identifier from the digital object;

comparing the extracted vendor identifier with the vendor identifier received from the vendor; and

checking the digital object for an associated warning status.

39. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 38 further comprising the step of removing the warning status if the extracted vendor identifier matches the vendor identifier received from the vendor.

40. (new) The method of transacting a digital object as claimed in claim 38 further comprising the step of associating a warning status with the digital object if the extracted vendor identifier does not match the vendor identifier received from the vendor.